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Chairman: Mr. Niculescu ..... (Romania)

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Agenda item 92: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

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Completion of the Committee's work

The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

Agenda item 92: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*) (A/55/15 (Part I-III) and A/55/15/Rev.1; A/C.2/55/L.28, L.29, L.61 and L.62)

(a) Trade and development (*continued*)

Draft resolutions on international trade and development (A/C.2/55/L.29 and L.61)

1. **Ms. Barrington** (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.61, which she was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.29. She announced that the words "and quota" should be deleted from paragraph 11 and drew attention to a number of editorial changes.

2. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Committee), speaking on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, said that in paragraph 9 thereof, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), to take the necessary measures to strengthen the management and enhance the programme delivery capacity and performance of UNCTAD. That request would be implemented without additional appropriation for the biennium 2000-2001, following an in-depth review of measures to enable UNCTAD to fully and effectively implement the outcome of its tenth session. Should additional resources be required, the Secretary-General would submit a request in accordance with established budgetary procedures.

3. Regarding paragraph 13, whereby the General Assembly encouraged the Secretary-General to establish a new subprogramme on Africa as agreed in the Bangkok Plan of Action, she noted that the Secretary-General had included a subprogramme on the development of Africa under the programme on trade and development in his proposed medium-term plan for the period 2000-2005; the latter was currently under consideration by the General Assembly.

4. *Draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.61, as orally revised, was adopted.*

5. *Draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.29 was withdrawn.*

6. **The Chairman** proposed that the Committee should take note of the reports of the Trade and Development Board on its twenty-third, twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth executive sessions (A/55/15 (Part I), A/55/15 (Part II) and A/55/15 (Part III)) and on its forty-seventh session (A/55/15/Rev.1).

7. *It was so decided.*

(b) Commodities (*continued*)

Draft resolutions on commodities (A/C.2/55/L.28 and L.62)

8. **Ms. Barrington** (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.62, which she was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.28.

9. **The Chairman** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

10. *Draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.62 was adopted.*

11. *Draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.28 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 94: Sustainable development and international economic cooperation (*continued*) (A/C.2/55/L.10 and L.60)

(c) Cultural development (*continued*)

Draft resolutions on culture and development (A/C.2/55/L.10 and L.60)

12. **The Chairman** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.60, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.10.

13. *Draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.60 was adopted.*

14. *Draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.10 was withdrawn.*

15. **Ms. Onoh** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, expressed concern at the draft resolution's mention of the issue of human rights, which was covered adequately in the resolution on human rights and cultural diversity that had been adopted by the Third Committee (A/C.3/55/L.34). However, in the interests of consensus and on the understanding that the draft resolution's adoption would not lead to the placing of conditions on trade or the exclusion of certain products, it had not opposed its adoption.

Agenda item 95: Environment and sustainable development (*continued*) (A/55/65-E/2000/19, A/55/185; A/C.2/55/L.15, L.21, L.30, L.57, L.58 and L.59)

(a) Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 (*continued*)

Draft resolutions on the 10-year review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (A/C.2/55/L.15 and L.58)

16. **Mr. Hanif** (Pakistan), Vice-President, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.58, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.15.

17. **Ms. Kelley** (Secretary of the Committee), speaking on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, noted that through the latter's adoption, the General Assembly would decide, inter alia, to organize the 10-year review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in 2002 at the summit level; that the meetings of the Commission on Sustainable Development at its tenth session would be transformed into an open-ended preparatory committee; to hold a three-day meeting of that session in order to decide on specific modalities of future preparatory meetings; that in 2002, the Commission, acting as preparatory committee for the summit, would hold three additional sessions; and accept with gratitude the offer of Indonesia to host the third and final substantive preparatory session at the ministerial level in that country.

18. The Commission would decide on the modalities of its future preparatory meetings at its 2001 session; servicing parameters for its three additional sessions could not be established until it had done so. It was currently anticipated that the summit would involve six meetings per day over a two-week period, for a total of 60 meetings, with full interpretation services and 100 pages of pre-session, 50 pages of in-session and 200 pages of post-session documentation in the six official languages. Provision for those meetings would be made under section 2 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. The summit and the third and final substantive preparatory session at the ministerial level would be held in South Africa and Indonesia, respectively. General Assembly resolution 40/243, paragraph 5, stipulated that any additional costs directly or indirectly involved in holding a meeting away from an established United Nations headquarters would be borne by the host Government in accordance with established procedures.

19. *Draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.58 was adopted.*

20. *Draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.15 was withdrawn.*

21. **Mr. Cooney** (United States of America) reiterated his delegation's objection to the global conference package contained in the draft resolution. He fully understood the viewpoint that the 10-year review of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development should be held as a global conference outside New York, and his Government strongly supported a review that would take into consideration major changes since the Conference and promote implementation of Agenda 21 in areas where progress had been slow. However, if his country's current legislation on matters relating to the United Nations were renewed, his Government would be unable to pay its share of funding for such an event. Consequently, his delegation was unable to join the consensus on the draft resolution.

22. **Mr. Anaedu** (Nigeria) speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that he recognized the difficulties inherent in the negotiation process. However, words alone were not enough; action was needed in order to remedy the lack of progress in the area of sustainable development. The Group of 77 and China had shown flexibility and made concessions, but certain important issues had not been resolved during negotiations and remained to be addressed. He considered the resulting draft resolution to be extremely fair.

(c) Water supply and sanitation (*continued*)

23. **The Chairman**, noting that no draft proposals had been submitted under the agenda item, proposed that the Committee should take note of the note by the Secretary-General on progress made in providing safe water supply and sanitation for all during the 1990s (A/55/65-E/2000/19).

24. *It was so decided.*

(d) Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (*continued*)

Draft resolutions on further implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/C.2/55/L.21 and L.59)

25. **Mr. Hanif** (Pakistan), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.59, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.21.

26. *Draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.59 was adopted.*

27. *Draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.21 was withdrawn.*

28. **Ms. Forde** (Barbados), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the Group of Small Island Developing States, said that further implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action was essential to small island developing States and other vulnerable States.

29. **Mr. Çubukçu** (Turkey) said that his delegation's decision to join the consensus on the draft resolution should be interpreted without prejudice to Turkey's position that the Government of Cyprus, mentioned in the eleventh preambular paragraph of the draft resolution, did not represent the entire island of Cyprus, which was divided between two peoples and two States.

30. **Mr. Hadjiargyrou** (Cyprus), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that he regretted the Turkish delegation's attempt to distort facts and politicize the Committee's work. Turkey continued to occupy a portion of the island of Cyprus in violation of international law and of the resolutions of numerous international organizations. The Turkish Government should withdraw its forces and allow the Greek and Turkish Cypriots to live in peace and prosperity.

Draft resolution on protection and sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea (A/C.2/55/L.30)

Draft resolution on promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development (A/C.2/55/L.57)

31. **Mr. Hanif** (Pakistan), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.57, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.30.

32. *Draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.57 was adopted.*

33. *Draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.30 was withdrawn.*

34. **The Chairman** proposed that the Committee should take note of the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States; and promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea area in the context of sustainable development: action taken at the international, regional and national levels (A/55/185).

35. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 100: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/55/75-E/2000/55; A/C.2/55/L.36 and L.63)

Draft resolution on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (A/C.2/55/L.36 and L.63)

36. **Mr. Escanero** (Mexico), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.63, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.36.

37. **The Chairman** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

38. *Draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.63 was adopted.*

39. *Draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.36 was withdrawn.*

40. **The Chairman** proposed that the Committee should take note of the report of the high-level panel of experts on information and communication technology contained in document A/55/75-E/2000/55.

41. *It was so decided.*

Agenda item 102: Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (*continued*) (A/C.2/55/L.43/Rev.1)

Draft resolution on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (A/C.2/55/L.43/Rev.1)

42. **The Chairman** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.43/Rev.1, which he was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution

A/C.2/55/L.43. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

43. *Draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.43/Rev.1 was adopted.*

44. **Mr. Roux** (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, expressed great satisfaction at the adoption of the draft resolution and welcomed, in particular, its paragraph 2 on convening, within existing resources, the second session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for the Conference from 5 to 9 February 2001 and the request to the Secretary-General to ensure that sufficient resources were made available throughout the remainder of the current biennium (para. 15) for the harmonious functioning, within the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Small Island Developing Countries, of the various services involved in the organization of the Conference. It was the European Union's understanding that a common approach would be taken to any reconsideration of the programme budget implications which might become necessary.

45. **Mr. Sorcar** (Bangladesh), coordinator of the negotiations on the draft resolution, said that the Conference itself and the preparatory process enjoyed such wide support that the Group of 77 and China had proposed that the draft resolution should be submitted by the Chairman rather than by any single group of Member States. He thanked all partners involved, particularly the European Union, for their support.

Agenda item 97: Training and research (*continued*) (A/C.2/55/L.35 and L.56)

Draft resolution on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/C.2/55/L.35 and L.56)

46. **Ms. Barrington** (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.56, which she was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.35, and recommended its adoption.

47. **Mr. Sach** (Director, Programme Planning and Budget Division), speaking on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution, said that, under the terms of its paragraph 12, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to consider reclassifying the rates charged to UNITAR for rent and maintenance costs with a view to alleviating its current financial difficulties.

48. In its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, the General Assembly had decided that the recommendations of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations (A/41/49), should be implemented by the Secretary-General and the relevant organs and bodies of the United Nations. One of the recommendations, (recommendation 36) was that Member States and other users occupying office space on United Nations premises should pay rent based on commercial rates.

49. It was the understanding of the Secretary-General that the term "other users" was clearly intended to refer to any bodies or activities funded outside the regular budget of the United Nations, so as to ensure that the regular budget did not bear costs that should be borne by extrabudgetary resources. The United Nations Institute for Training and Research fell under the term "other users".

50. In accordance with the procedure established to conform to recommendation 36, the rental and maintenance rates charged by the United Nations to entities occupying space in United Nations buildings was based on the commercial rates that the United Nations was charged. The Secretary-General was thus not in a position to "reclassify" the rates charged to UNITAR for rent and maintenance costs, unless the General Assembly decided to make an express exception to its resolution 41/213 and in regard to recommendation 36.

51. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.56, UNITAR would have to continue to pay its rent and maintenance costs at commercial rates and to reimburse the United Nations for services provided, so that the actual costs incurred by the United Nations itself would be reimbursed. Consequently, adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.56 would not give rise to any financial implications under the regular budget of the United Nations.

52. *Draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.56 was adopted.*

53. *Draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.35 was withdrawn.*

The meeting was suspended at 12.10 p.m. and resumed at 12.20 p.m.

Agenda item 92: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*) (A/C.2/55/L.38 and L.64)

(c) External debt crisis and development (*continued*)

Draft resolution on enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries (A/C.2/55/L.38 and L.64)

54. **Ms. Barrington** (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, introduced draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.64, which she was submitting on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.38, and recommended it for adoption without a vote.

55. **Mr. Mbayu** (Cameroon), facilitator of the negotiations, also recommended the draft resolution for adoption by consensus.

56. **Mr. Le Gargasson** (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that while, on an exceptional basis, the Member States of the European Union had agreed to consider a draft resolution that was available in English only, that in no way established a precedent for further departures from the principle of multilingualism.

57. **Mr. Cooney** (United States of America) said that his delegation would join the consensus, although there were statements in the draft resolution with which it did not agree, and that he wished to speak in explanation of position. His delegation was somewhat troubled by some aspects of the negotiations, in which new substantive language had been introduced at the last minute. It hoped that, in future, there would be more time earlier in the session to allow for both the consideration of the report and proper deliberations on the draft resolution. It did, however, wish to maintain a united show of political support for continuing to address debt servicing problems in the context of sound strategies for poverty reduction and economic growth.

58. His delegation reaffirmed its commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) Debt Initiative, and the objectives of real, discernible poverty reduction, growth-oriented economic reform and enhanced prospects for debt sustainability. His delegation would also continue to work with non-HIPC countries seeking debt treatment through the appropriate existing mechanisms.

59. At the same time, it wished to emphasize that actual decisions on appropriate debt treatment measures for specific cases would continue to be made in the established venues for such decision-making and that, in particular, consideration by the United States of debt reduction measures envisaged as part of the HIPC Initiative would be reserved for indebted countries meeting HIPC criteria.

60. *Draft resolution A/C.2/55/SR.64 was adopted.*

61. *Draft resolution A/C.2/55/L. 38 was withdrawn.*

Draft biennial programme of work for the Second Committee for 2001 and 2002 (A/C.2/55/L. 40)

62. **Mr. Xiong** Lixian (Chief of the Documentation Programming and Monitoring Unit) introducing the draft biennial programme of work for the Second Committee for 2001-2002 (A/C.2/55/L.40), drew attention to some minor editorial changes. In addition, the report of the Secretary-General on analysis undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) of international financial stability as a global public good should be added under item 2 (b) and the report of the Secretary-General on resources for the Office of the Special Coordinator for Least Developed, Landlocked and Small Island Developing Countries should be added under item 13. The first report listed under item 2 (d) should be deleted and, under item 5 (b) of the programme for the year 2002, the title of the report should be "Report of the Secretary-General on promoting an integrated management approach to the Caribbean Sea Area in the context of sustainable development".

63. *The draft biennial programme of work, as orally revised, was adopted.*

Completion of the Committee's work

64. **Mr. Desai** (Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs) said that the Committee had adopted draft resolutions addressing three critical issues: environment and development; financing for development; and globalization and interdependence. He noted with satisfaction that the Committee had given a clear indication, in draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.58, of what it expected from the 10-year

review of progress achieved in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. He welcomed the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/55/L.45, saying that the high-level international intergovernmental event on financing for development had the potential, inter alia, to enhance United Nations work in the field of development.

65. United Nations activities in the areas of environment and development and financing for development should be seen as an integral part of the Organization's response to globalization and the challenges it presented. He was pleased to note that some of those challenges had been addressed by the Committee in the draft resolution on the role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (A/C.2/55/L.63). With the Second Committee focusing on the economic and environmental issues and the Third Committee considering the social dimension, a coordinated and holistic approach to globalization was beginning to take shape within the United Nations.

66. **The Chairman** said that the Committee's work at the current session had been both constructive and productive and had been conducted in a spirit of consensus. The draft resolutions adopted demonstrated that the international community still regarded multilateralism as the best means of addressing issues of global import in an increasingly interdependent world. The Committee had laid the foundations for the successful outcome of the major events and conferences that were to take place in 2001 and 2002. Its fruitful interaction with the Economic and Social Council, and other bodies would serve as a model of coordination and synergy within the United Nations, while its efficiency and effectiveness would send a positive signal to the Organization's governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners and potential donors. It was to be hoped that the work of the United Nations in the future would reflect the Committee's achievements.

67. **Mr. Osio** (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, said that the Group of 77 and China, as the initiators of the majority of the draft resolutions considered by the Committee, had been gratified by the spirit of cooperation and consensus that had prevailed which had enabled all but one draft resolution to be adopted by consensus. He hoped that the Group of 77 and China would continue to play a leading role in the Committee's work.

68. **Mr. Le Gargasson** (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union, expressed concern that, once again, the Committee had been unable to complete its work by the date specified by the General Assembly. That was due in part to the failure to respect the deadlines for the submission of draft resolutions. In order to address that problem, there was a need for more equitable burden-sharing. The Group of 77 and China were nevertheless to be commended for having undertaken a formidable volume of work and, in particular, for having prepared draft resolutions that were, for the most part, more moderate than in previous years. He welcomed especially the achievement of a consensus on the draft resolution on the international financial system. The Chairman, too, was to be commended for having encouraged multilingualism in the Committee.

69. **Mr. Holubov** (Ukraine), speaking on behalf of the Group of Eastern European States, expressed satisfaction that the Committee had reached consensus on most of the key issues before it. His delegation attached particular importance to the draft resolution on the integration of the economies in transition into the world economy and those on international trade and development, the United Nations role in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence, the international financial system, and industrial development cooperation.

70. **Mr. Aho-Glele** (Benin), speaking on behalf of the African least developed countries, said that the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, when identifying the most important draft resolutions adopted by the Committee, should have mentioned the draft resolution on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries.

71. **Mr. Kumamaru** (Japan) said that not only must draft resolutions be submitted by the established deadlines but they must better reflect the work done by the Committee at previous sessions. While reaffirming the importance of the reports of the Secretary-General he said that if they were to serve as a good basis for discussion, they must present divergent views objectively, without prejudging the outcome of the Committee's discussions. Given the constructive atmosphere that had prevailed at the current session, he was hopeful that, in the coming years, the Committee

would be able to respond more effectively to the challenges facing it.

72. **Mr. Davison** (United States of America) said that his delegation appreciated the valuable contribution of the Group of 77 and China to the Committee's work. Their approach to many issues had been instructive. However, he regretted the late issuance of documentation and the failure to respect the deadlines for the submission of draft resolutions, which had prevented the Committee from devoting adequate time to consideration of the very important issues before it.

73. After an exchange of courtesies, in which **Ms. Raholinirina** (Madagascar) spoke on behalf of the Group of African States and **Mr. Baquero** (Colombia) spoke on behalf of the States members of the Rio Group, **the Chairman** declared that the Committee had completed its work for the fifty-fifth session.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.